

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA (CEDAR RAPIDS)

[illegible]

TRANSCRIPT OF 341 MEETING OF CREDITORS

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

November 10, 2020

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Also Appearing:

DAVID KELVIN, ESQ.



1 point.

2 MR. EIDE: Okay. When you say you purchased
3 membership, tell me how that went down. What do you mean by
4 that?

5 MR. PITMAN: We heard that it was for sale, and it
6 was owned by a group out of Texas, and then they -- we
7 purchased the membership from them in a stock purchase of
8 membership in November of 2017.

9 MR. EIDE: Just a housekeeping matter. I would like
10 so that I make certain that I got everybody on appearances,
11 anybody that's on the phone, I would like you to send an email
12 to my law office, to my email address, just with your name and
13 address so that I make sure I have that and a phone number. My
14 email address is E-I-D-E. My last name, Eide@pappajohnlaw.com.
15 P-A-P-P-A, J-O-H-N, L-A-W dot com. Okay?

16 I think I got everybody that spoke up, but just to
17 make sure that I've got everybody. I would like that.

18 MR. Pitman, would you describe the debtors business?

19 MR. PITMAN: The debtor's business is raising and
20 processing poultry.

21 MR. EIDE: And the plant was in Charles City,
22 correct?

23 MR. PITMAN: Yes, sir. Yes.

24 MR. EIDE: When did the plant cease operations?

25 MR. PITMAN: In August of 2019.



1 MR. EIDE: And when was the decision made to cease
2 processing poultry?

3 MR. PITMAN: Around the beginning of June, end of
4 May, in 2019.

5 MR. EIDE: And who participated in making that
6 decision?

7 MR. PITMAN: Our family. A slew of accountants and
8 lawyers, and --

9 MR. EIDE: And when you say family, it'd be you, your
10 father. There are other family members?

11 MR. PITMAN: Yeah, my mother and my brother.

12 MR. EIDE: Okay. What's your brother's name?

13 MR. PITMAN: Ben Pitman.

14 MR. EIDE: Ben?

15 MR. PITMAN: Yes.

16 MR. EIDE: Okay. What -- when the -- what was the
17 plan for the debtor's assets and debts at the time that the
18 business was terminated or ceased operation?

19 MR. PITMAN: The plan was to find a buyer. We tried
20 to find a buyer before we made a decision to close it. We
21 actually had a couple people that we were negotiating with,
22 trying to sell it. When those didn't come to fruition, and we
23 decided to cease, then we still tried to sell it throughout
24 that time period.

25 MR. EIDE: Does the limited liability company, does



1 first retained the Wanger Jones firm with respect to bankruptcy
2 or restructuring services?

3 MR. PITMAN: I'd have to go and look. I do not know.

4 MR. OHLMS: That's written down somewhere.

5 MR. PITMAN: I'm sure it is. Yeah. Okay.

6 MR. OHLMS: Okay. When did Simply Essentials begin
7 to contemplate filing for protection under the Bankruptcy Code?

8 MR. PITMAN: It was looked at in late '18, early '19
9 and then put off because we wanted to make some changes to turn
10 things around and put some new equipment in. And then in May
11 of 2019 is when it really was contemplated and looked at.

12 MR. OHLMS: I'm sorry, I couldn't hear. Did you say
13 May of 2019 was when it was really contemplated?

14 MR. PITMAN: Yeah, that's when it was seriously
15 contemplated, was May of '19.

16 MR. OHLMS: All right.

17 MR. PITMAN: We had to decide whether to throw in the
18 towel and screw everybody or to try to land it softly, and we
19 chose to bring it down and pay everybody, and land it softly.
20 We could have thrown in the towel, and made -- and just walked
21 away.

22 MR. OHLMS: The equipment, the rolling stock that's
23 on the farm in Iowa, who all has access to that? Is that just
24 you and your brother?

25 MR. PITMAN: Yes.

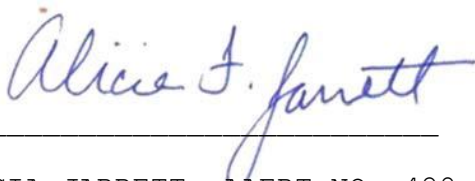


1 MR. EIDE: Thank you. I appreciate it. Bye.
2 (Proceedings concluded at 9:59 a.m.)

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14 C E R T I F I C A T I O N

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16 I, Alicia Jarrett, court-approved transcriber, hereby
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18 official electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the
19 above-entitled matter, to the best of my ability.
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